

Tempe Public Art



Ned Kahn

Sea of Waves II (Mare Undarum), 2007

Aluminum, mirrors and wave generators

Location:

Tempe Center for the Arts 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway

Artist website: www.NedKahn.com

Photo: Craig Smith

Description: An array of three-inch aluminum mirrors are installed in the space between the glass layers of the west facade of the Lakeside Room at Tempe Center for the Arts. Each of the tiny mirrors is aimed down to reflect a small "snapshot" of the water surface below. As water movement spreads across the pool, the mirror array digitizes the flow patterns. Kahn was "inspired by the image of rain in the desert, or the discovery of a pool hidden in the rocks of a seemingly dry stream with ripples of light reflecting onto the stone above...the incongruity of water in the desert."

Artist biography: Ned Kahn's creative impetus began in the San Francisco Bay Area, where, soon after graduating from the University of Connecticut, he became an apprentice to the late Frank Oppenheimer, legendary founder of the San Francisco Exploratorium. Kahn continued working at the Exploratorium as an exhibit designer for 10 years, where numerous works of his are still on display. Other art installations by Kahn can be found around the Bay Area, including 14 exhibits at the Chabot Space and Science Center and "Wind Portal" at the San Francisco International Airport BART station.

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